in the country;

(c) what action Government propose to take so that this knowledge is preserved; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide due protection to the science of Ayurvedic diagnosis, preparatioin of cheap medicine and treatment with the help of such medicines which do not cause any side effect?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Observation of pulse is one of the 8 methods of clinical examination described in Ayurveda. In Ayurvedic Colleges students are trained in such diagnosis treatment and preparation of medicines. Further to preserve the traditional practices in Ayurvedic science a scheme has also been formulated under Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth in training Ayurvedic students under Guru-Shishya tradition.

Clinical Wastes from Hospitals

2798. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any critical study of the most unhygenic manner in which clinical wastes are dumped by the Delhi Hospitals and hospitals in the various States seriously polluting the hospital environment with threats of spreading deadly infections;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the action taken by Government to ensure strict control over the proper disposal of hazardous clinical wastes; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to conduct such a study with a view to provide clean and healthy hospital environment?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) However, major Government Hospitals in Delhi dispose off clinical wastes through incineration.

2799. [*Transferred to* 24 *December*, 1993]

Study on effects of Air Pollution by Doctors of Maulana Azad Institute of Medical Sciences

2800. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to air pollution, the number of children suffering from Asthma in Delhi has been increased manifold during the past two years;

(b) if so, whether a study conducted by Doctors at the Maulana Azad Institute of Medical Sciences it has been revealed that the number of children suffering from Asthma are increasing alarmingly; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) According to the Maulana Azad Institute study 5-8% of the school-going children suffer from bronchial asthma. However, there is no evidence that this is wholly on account of air pollution.

(c) The question does not arise.